

The background features a large, light gray watermark of the Trinity Church logo. It consists of a central vertical cross with a circular ring around it, and a horizontal bar across the middle. The ring has four circular nodes at the top, bottom, left, and right.

The Parish of Trinity Church

**Annual Meeting
June 6, 2021**

120 Sigourney Street • Hartford • CT • 06105-2796

www.trinityhartford.org

860.527.8133

**Annual Report (Draft)
May 2020 – May 2021**

THE PARISH OF TRINITY CHURCH

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THE PARISH OF TRINITY CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 6, 2021

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Canonical Requirements Concerning Quorum and Eligibility to Vote
- IV. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 7, 2020
- V. Reports:
 1. Rector
 2. Wardens
 3. Treasurer
 4. Trinity Academy
 5. Choir School of Hartford
- VI. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election
- VII. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members
- VIII. Swearing in of Vestry Officers, New Vestry Members
- IX. Feedback – Questions, Joys, Concerns of Members of the Annual Meeting
- X. Setting the date for the 2022 Annual Meeting (Trinity Sunday, June 12, 2022)
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Blessing
- XIII. Adjournment

THE PARISH OF TRINITY CHURCH

CLERGY

The Rev. Dorothea M. Littlepage Rector
The Rev. Dr. Frank G. Kirkpatrick..... Assisting Clergy
The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith..... Assisting Clergy
The Rev. Jon Widing..... Assisting Clergy

STAFF

The Rev. George A. Chien (UMC, MCC) Digital Missioner
Ms. Michelle Horsley Director of Music Ministries
Ms. Fran Times-Mack Parish Financial Manager
Mr. Vincent Pacileo Facilities Manager
Mr. Patrick Reid Capital Campaign Administrator
Ms. Barbara Roos Assistant to the Rector

THE PARISH OF TRINITY CHURCH
VESTRY & OFFICERS JUNE 2020 to JUNE 2021

OFFICERS

Martha Freimuth Warden
P. Thomas Oberholtzer Warden
Kenneth (Casey) Rousseau Treasurer
Jacob Troiano Assistant Treasurer
Kathleen (Kitty) Peterson Clerk

Class of 2018 (term ending June 2021)

Walton Brown-Foster

William Kofalk

Kevin Rennie

Stephen Sirotko

Class of 2019 (term ending June 2022)

Leslyn Clark

Catherine Rowe

Kate Steven

Class of 2020 (term ending June 2023)

Althea Francis

Heather Kramer

Marsha McCurdy Adell

THE PARISH OF TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Hartford, Connecticut 06105

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

TRINITY SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

- I. Opening Prayer was led by The Rev. Norman M. MacLeod, Interim Priest-in-Charge, who called this virtual meeting to order at 11:49 a.m. via Zoom.
- II. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 16, 2019
 - a. Fr. Norman thanked Clerk Kathleen (“Kitty”) Peterson for excellent minutes.
 - b. J. Alan Rice made a motion, seconded by Mark MacGougan, that minutes be accepted. Motion passed unanimously at 11: 51 a.m.
- III. Canonical Requirements Concerning Eligibility to Vote: One has to be at least 16 years old and be supporting the church financially to be able to vote at this meeting. A quorum equal to 10% of parish membership (400) is required; therefore with 43 members in attendance today, quorum has been met.
- IV. New Business: Electronic Voting By-Law Vote: Fr. Norman explained the need for this, especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the parish is not allowed to meet in person. Martha Freimuth read the amendment. Alan moved that by-laws be amended to allow electronic voting. Percy Williamson seconded the motion. A Question & Answer period followed. The motion passed unanimously at 11: 57 a.m.
- V. Reports:
 - a. Wardens: Martha Freimuth commended everyone’s attention to the Wardens’ Report found on page 13 of the Annual Report for May 2019-May 2020. Martha thanked Fr. Norman and parishioners for help and cooperation and for showing up to participate in various ministries.

Fr. Norman thanked Alan Rice, who is stepping down at the end of this, his fifth term as Warden, for his welcome, support and leadership.
 - b. Treasurer: Casey Rousseau gave detailed explanation of the Profit & Loss Budget Performance Report (December 2019) and Operations Budget. The Capital Expenditures and others will be posted to Trinity’s web site for perusal. Q & A discussion ensued. Martha complimented Casey on the clarity of the financial report, which was met by applause from the Assembly.

Alan made a motion, which Martha seconded, to accept the Treasurer’s report. It was accepted unanimously at 12:10 p.m.

- c. Rector Transition: Enid Oberholtzer reported on the work of the Recruitment Team. They have heard all candidates and made recommendations to the Bishops. The next phase is the Bishop-to-Bishop phase. The Recruitment Team gave specific questions, for which they would like answers, to the Bishops. This information can then be passed on to the Vestry. Enid thanked the Recruitment Team members for their wonderful collaborative nature.

Enid also revealed that the Choristers want more of a relationship with the incoming rector. They would like a “moveable” priest, available on campus, popping into Chorister practices. Choristers want to know: Is there a female candidate?

- d. Re-gathering of in-person worship: Martha related that a task force of eight has been created (See “Warden’s Corner” in today’s service bulletin) to explore the resumption of in-person worship. Given the guidelines from ECCT (Episcopal Church in Connecticut), the Governor’s Office and the Centers for Disease Control, we must follow necessary policies to resume in a safe, healthy manner.
- e. Director of Music Ministries Search: Fr. Norman conveyed that Jackson Merrill, Director of Music Ministries, will be leaving Trinity at the end of July. Martha lamented how sad we are to see Jackson leave, even as we give thanks for his expertise, energy and dedication. These are tricky times for doing music in church because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We won’t be doing choral or communal singing until the novel corona virus situation improves. Jackson said that The Choir School of Hartford is more than a choir. He continued, saying that fortunately, Enid Oberholtzer will still be on hand to advise and lead the Choir School of Hartford. Without a new rector, it is difficult to call a new Director of Music Ministries because that person has to work closely with a rector. Unfortunately, we will not be singing because that can increase the spread of the novel corona virus.

Jackson added that Anglican Church Musicians will be launching a study to gain information about singing and getting sick (with COVID-19). The Choir School of Hartford cannot be a choir in the current climate. Jackson noted that recorded virtual choirs are possible, but time-consuming. The Choristers will continue receiving music education, meeting regularly via Zoom, studying the *Voice for Life* curriculum and taking piano lessons. Life in the time of COVID-19 presents extraordinary challenges, but the Choir School of Hartford will do what it can.

Fr. Norman gave high praise to Jack Merrill for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the Choir School of Hartford. The assembly agreed.

- f. Trinity Academy: J. Alan Rice spoke about the history of Trinity Academy, which was the fruit of a Vestry retreat, held ten years ago. Yesterday, the 4th graders graduated; they will be heading off to middle school. The Academy’s web site contains photos of the graduation event. Reorganization of Trinity Academy during the past year has worked splendidly. Trinity Academy has gotten through the 2019-2020 school year unscathed by COVID-19. The Academy ended the year in the black financially for the second year in a row and in spite of having to cancel the gala fundraiser. Alan declared that this is a testament to the diligence, care and effort by the school staff, to Trinity Episcopal Church and to all who have supported Trinity Academy. The school has been able to make

payroll; it also received funds through the federal Paycheck Protection Program to help support employee salaries. Alan reported that contributions to the school have remained strong. It is important to note that salaries have been low, with no health insurance offered. The Board of Trustees for Trinity Academy is exploring ways to offer insurance to teachers. Trinity Academy is also taking preparatory steps toward applying for accreditation in a year or so.

- g. Choir School of Hartford: (See section above, Director of Music Ministries Search.)
- h. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members: Warden Martha Freimuth spoke about each of the retiring Vestry members: Kevin Chick, who spearheaded the effort to refurbish Trinity's web site, heralded as a "herder-of-cats." Martha announced that a gift will be given in Kevin's honor to Trinity to further its use of technology; Kathie Wilson, who was applauded her encyclopedic knowledge of Trinity Episcopal Church. Martha announced a gift to be given in Kathie's honor to The Choir School of Hartford; Steven Zhitnik, known for his efforts to bolster Stewardship, his organizing skills, his ministry as a member of the Outreach Committee, and a Loaves and Fishes stalwart. A gift will be made in Steve's honor to Loaves and Fishes Ministries; J. Alan Rice: Co-Warden, member of Trinity Advocates and the (K)naves, Trinity's erstwhile theater group and who, like Kathie Wilson, knows a ton about this church, who has served seven terms as Clerk, five terms as Warden. A gift will be made to Trinity Academy in Alan's honor.
- i. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election: Jake Troiano thanked Ruth Rose for her enormous help putting together the slate of nominees. Tom Oberholtzer was nominated to be Co-Warden, assuming the mantle from J. Alan Rice. (See page 6 of the Annual Report for nominees/terms.)

Barbara ("Boo") Morton made and Alan seconded a motion requesting that Clerk Kathleen (Kitty) Peterson make a motion to cast one vote in favor of the entire slate of nominees. The Clerk made the motion, which carried; the slate of nominees was approved unanimously.

- j. Swearing in of Vestry Officers, New Vestry Members: Attorney Lily Miller administered the oath to Martha Freimuth and Thomas Oberholtzer (Wardens); Kathleen J. Peterson (Clerk); Kenneth (Casey) Rousseau (Treasurer); Jacob Troiano (Assistant Treasurer); Althea Francis, Heather Kramer and Catherine (Cathy) Rowe, at-large members. Marcia McCurdy Adell (absent) will be sworn in later as an at-large member.
- k. Feedback - Questions, Joys, Concerns of Members of the Annual Meeting:
 - JoEllen Jansing, who is at McLean Health Center in Simsbury, CT has a birthday tomorrow. Parishioners are encouraged to contact her.
 - Jackson Merrill thanked Fr. Norman for his wonderful leadership and collegiality;
 - Anne Rapkin thanked everyone (the Vestry, Fr. Norman, Jackson Merrill et al.) for the incredible shepherding/guidance/leadership during a time of trial (i.e. the retirement of Fr. Don and Debbie Hamer, March 2019; the COVID-19 pandemic, Jack Merrill's and Fr. Norman's departures, Summer 2020)
 - Barbara Roos, Fran Times-Mack, Jackson Merrill, Casey Rousseau, Jake Troiano, Vinnie Pacileo, Rev. George Chien were commended as were all who have done their utmost to take care of the campus and to facilitate the virtual worship service.

- l. Setting the date for the 2021 Annual Meeting (Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021): Since next year's meeting will coincide with the Memorial Day Holiday, a motion was made by Rev. George, seconded by Martha Freimuth, to change the date to June 6, 2021. The motion passed unanimously 1:02 p.m.
- m. Other Business: None
- n. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn, made by Tom Oberholtzer and seconded by Althea Francis, passed unanimously at 1:03 p.m.
- o. Closing Hymn: *Thou Whose Almighty Word* (#371; 1981 Hymnal)
- p. Blessing: Given by Fr. Norman MacLeod
- q. Dismissal

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen J. Peterson, Clerk

THE PARISH OF TRINITY CHURCH

Rector's Report

The Rector's report will be delivered as a sermon and then incorporated into the final report after the Annual Meeting.

Wardens' Annual Report 2020-2021

In the past year, Trinity has truly lived into God's promise given to the prophet Isaiah to "do a new thing!" Weathering the storm of COVID-19 has required that we make changes in our worship. We have a new Rector, a new Director of Music Ministries, and a new Community for Racial Justice. Our campus has been both improved and repaired over the past year. We are still Trinity Episcopal Church on Sigourney Street. But we are also a new people in many ways, through the action of the Holy Spirit.

On July 1, 2020, the vestry, meeting on Zoom, voted unanimously to call the Rev. Dorothea Littlepage to be Trinity's thirteenth Rector. Rev. D came to us from Dorchester, MA in September, accompanied by her wife, Kristen Williams and their dog, Caleb. Rev. D's arrival was an especially welcome event after a long vacancy in the midst of a pandemic. She has assumed her leadership role with sensitivity and confidence, and her presence as our priest has infused our vestry and wardens with new spirit.

The Vestry is looking forward to welcoming Rev. D when she is officially installed in the fall of 2021. Trinity followed the rector transition process defined by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. It was complicated by having to be done largely via Zoom, but throughout the process we felt God's presence guiding us.

When COVID-19 struck in early 2020, we were able to pivot quickly to offer worship through the internet. Thanks to the efforts of our newly formed Audio-Visual Guild, we have learned how best to create worship offerings using technology. With the addition of more powerful equipment and more state-of-the-art connections, we are now able to smoothly stream our services from the church, and we will continue to stream our services even after we are able to gather in person. Special thanks to our "virtual vergers," Casey Rousseau and Jacob Troiano, and to Michelle Horsley for her contributions to our improved musical offerings.

Switching to online worship was important to the life of the parish, but some of our members are not able to participate in online events. We have missed those for whom YouTube or Zoom does not work, and we look forward to gathering in-person for worship and fellowship.

The past year has been tumultuous for our nation, and the vestry of Trinity church has been actively wrestling with the question of what God is inviting our parish to do about the epidemic of racism and white supremacy in our society. Following a parish forum in which we were invited to listen and to share how we have been impacted by societal racism, the vestry authorized the formation of the Trinity Community for Racial Justice. Look for that group's report elsewhere in this Annual Report. The vestry also decided to purchase the sign now displayed in our Close indicating that our faith calls us to support people of color.

Having bid a fond and socially distanced farewell to Jackson Merrill, vestry named a search committee to recruit Trinity's next Director of Music Ministries. This search, too, was conducted mostly via Zoom. Final interviews and an organ audition were done in person, and we are blessed to have found

Michelle Horsley. Since her arrival at Trinity in October she has greatly enriched our worship, enabling choir members to contribute to virtual anthems, holding carefully distanced rehearsals and performances with the Choir School, and including both adult and youth cantors in Sunday services.

Trinity Church is blessed to have a remarkably capable and committed lay staff, and it is largely thanks to their efforts that we have continued to function through the past year. Through the generosity of our Capital Campaign contributors our 125 year old facility has been enhanced with upgraded HVAC improvements, a new rug in the Nave, new gutters and downspouts, a totally new security system, a new porch to the Parish House, and other less obvious but equally important enhancements. Through all of this Barbara Roos, Vinnie Pacileo, Fran Times Mack, and Patrick Reid have carried out their duties with no interruption, and have often gone beyond our expectations to ensure that our ministries have continued. We are indebted to them for their devotion as well as their skills.

Submitted by Martha Freimuth and P. Thomas Oberholtzer, *Wardens*

Organist & Director Of Music Ministries Report 2020-2021

What an unusual season for creativity and music ministry!

November 1st was my first Sunday at Trinity Episcopal Church as the Organist & Director of Music Ministries, succeeding Jackson Merrill's tenure. I feel abundant gratitude for this congregation and the staff, who have all welcomed me wholeheartedly into this position, even as in-person greetings have been few during the pandemic. On November 21st, we premiered our first virtual choir anthem on the church's YouTube channel. Since then, we have created 11 more, in addition to in-person video projects. Between November and January, our worship services continued to be hosted mostly via Zoom, with musical components pre-recorded. Music videos featured panned shots of the sanctuary, drone footage, and on-screen lyrics, with harmonies recorded by myself and my quarantine pod, with whom I could safely record. Chorister rehearsals alternated between Zoom and in-person, with no singing during in-person rehearsals. After a couple months, we were able to cautiously introduce singing for 15 minutes at the end of rehearsals, with all sanctuary windows opened. With the assistance of Jennifer Reilly, a chorister's mom, we used a leaf blower, AC tubing, and seals, to transform the Parent's Room of the church into a comically effective makeshift studio, complete with air circulation so we could safely film each chorister singing and playing instruments for a Christmas video project. We allowed for 7 minutes in between recording sessions to allow for all the air to be circulated. I provided microphones and a camera from my personal collection. We also continued finding ways to make the Christmas season special, including carol sings and Secret Santa exchanges with additional CSH gift bags.

For our Christmas Eve service, we also hosted two virtual choir projects - one in collaboration with singers from Emanuel Lutheran Church, singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, and another in which singers from our community were asked to join voices for Silent Night, while lighting their own candles at home. Early/mid-January held a flurry of activity in terms of transitioning to a high-quality live-streaming setup for worship services. The church purchased a camcorder, switcher, tripod, two extra microphones, etc. The PTZ camera was also installed and incorporated into the setup. Casey Rousseau and Jake Troiano worked tirelessly to learn the new equipment and collectively we came up with a new vision for pandemic worship could be done. A new music leadership system was also created, which involved a series of rotating cantors (mostly choristers) who rehearsed individually with me for 1-2 weeks prior and whose voices led vocal music during worship. Choristers continued being featured on instruments in this new capacity as well. Our wardens and several adult choir members also joined in sharing cantor duties.

In February and March, we were able to safely extend our singing time during chorister rehearsals. Some of the older choristers also participated in collaborative bell choir sessions on Friday nights at Emanuel Lutheran Church, where ringers were masked and distanced at bell tables set up in Luther Hall. These bell sessions resulted in videos which were also included in our live-streamed worship services. There were a few cases in which choristers came into contact with COVID, which (situation-dependent), required us to move rehearsals back to Zoom for 10-day quarantine. Quarantine and negative test results were required before choristers could rejoin in-person rehearsals. Our Holy Week featured many pieces of special music for voices, bells, and instruments. The choristers learned a 4-part anthem (*Non Nobis Domine*), which was a particularly ambitious project, especially with our rehearsals continuing to be distance, masked, and sometimes online. We also filmed this anthem with a drone camera and were joined by guest singers from Emanuel Lutheran Church. Adult choir members couldn't safely gather in-person yet, but were included in a variety of virtual choir offerings.

On the first day of May, adult singers finally re-gathered to sing together in-person for the first time since March of 2020. We spaced out in the Memorial Garden to sing through hymns and beloved anthems after so many months without rehearsals. On June 6th we will joyously sing again as a choir, officially, for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. The Sunday of June 6th will also be our first in-person 10:00 a.m. worship service. Although the summer is typically off-season for choral ensembles, we are planning to create a few "choir Sundays" where singers can meet the week prior to prepare a few special anthems. We have missed singing together! There will also continue to be cantor duties for choristers and adult choir members alike to help lead worship music during the summer months.

The end of May includes two very special music offerings. In mid-May, our two graduating choristers (Margaret Rousseau and Jane Mogor) joined a group of mostly professional singers to tackle a recording project of the Kodály *Missa Brevis*, in collaboration with St. John's Episcopal Church. Jonathan Reuning-Scherer, Scott Lamlein, and I created this video project as a mass of remembrance, to honor the loss during the COVID-19 pandemic and to lift up the resilience of the human spirit. This piece was written in 1945 while Kodály was sheltering for months in the basement of the Budapest Opera House as Allied bombings destroyed the city. The *Missa Brevis* was premiered in the cloakroom of the opera house as it was one of the only structures still standing, and sung by a small group of opera company singers as gunfire continued outside. We have chosen this piece for what it represents, both then and now. The audio for this project will be recorded professionally by an audio engineer and the resulting videos will be included in the May 30th worship service. It will also be made available in its entirety on YouTube. This project is funded in part by the Jolidon Fund of the American Guild of Organist, Greater Hartford Chapter. Bram Wayman (board member of the Choir School of Hartford) and Jackson Merrill (former Organist & Director of Music Ministries) both traveled from out of state to be part of the *Missa Brevis* project.

On May 30th, the choir school will present an end-of-year concert, which will be held in the church grounds of Emanuel Lutheran Church. This concert will feature our 16 choristers, singing and playing instruments for pieces that they've learned in rehearsals held both in-person and online over the past several months. Our graduating choristers will be honored at this concert and each chorister will be featured individually in either a speaking or singing role. Although this past program year of social distancing and Zoom music-making has often been challenging, the Choir School has been fortified by support in many ways, including two unusually large donations - one from the Musical Club of Hartford in the amount of \$1,000 and one from Todd Gardner in the amount of \$10,000. We are immensely humbled by these gifts.

Highlights from this 2020-2021 year include:

- 12 virtual choir videos for both the choir school and the adult choir
- makeshift studio for Choir School Christmas video
- prerecorded music videos featuring sanctuary and drone footage, as well as on-screen lyrics
- handbell opportunities for choristers (in addition to Friday night collaborative bell sessions at Emanuel Lutheran Church)
- major transition to full YouTube livestream format for music and most spoken worship portions from mid-January to June
- optimization of church's technology - including the purchase/installation of 1 PTZ camera, 1 camcorder, camera switcher, 2 additional microphones, etc.
- creation of a weekly cantor program to lead vocal music for live-streamed services
- The Spirit in Spirituals presentation in Adult Forum - February of 2021
- Songs in the Garden: a time to safely sing together in-person for the first time since March of 2020
- end-of-year Choir School concert on May 30th
- Kodály *Missa Brevis* project with St. John's and Emanuel (guest singers; Jack and Bram)
- first in-person 10:00 a.m. worship service and first choral singing - June 6th

We are grateful for our ever-expanding community reach - especially the churches of St. John's Episcopal (West Hartford) and Emanuel Lutheran Church (Hartford) for their collaborative spirit. As we look forward, we hope to continue creating programming that is bridge-building and community centric. I am also proud to announce that we are in the process of redesigning the choir school brochures, website, and mailings. Many leaps and bounds have been taken regarding technology and modernization during this time, including a sizable collection of chorister videos, pictures, individual biographies, and frequent social media postings. We hope to build on this!

As we navigate through this next chapter of our historical times - one that can be post-COVID, God willing - we are called to discern the lessons this pandemic has taught us. How can technology be fully, enthusiastically embraced as a method for connection in the future? Which elements of our systems need to be upheld and which need to be discarded? In what ways are we called to be flexible? What needs to die so that the next thing can be born? How do we respond most lovingly and inclusively to the world around us? In what way are we called to invite others in? In what ways are we called to seek outside ourselves?

I offer up my most sincere gratitude to Rev. D, Barbara, Vinnie, Fran, Patrick, and George, as well as wardens Tom and Martha, for the collective and forward-thinking leadership at Trinity Episcopal Church. I am also grateful for the singers of this community, who have trusted me enough to send in video recordings of themselves for virtual choir projects, often before even meeting me in person! I am inspired by way I have experienced this community reaching out to each other during these times. It has been an honor to work with the choristers as well, who have brought their full selves into our music making this year. They inspire me tremendously. I give thanks to my search committee, the wonderful vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church, and to the divine creative Spirit which continues showering blessings, both visible and invisible. May our faith manifest into deep praise, curiosity, adaptability, and compassion as we embrace what is next for this beloved community.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Submitted by Michelle Horsley, *Organist & Director of Music Ministries*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION QUADRANT

Liaison: Clement Mogor
860-730-2852 chinelochu@cox.net

Adult Christian Formation (ACF)

The Adult Christian Formation committee (ACF) organizes the adult forums, Lenten suppers and occasional special programs that are presented during the program year. During the 2020-21 program year, these events were all presented electronically, due to the pandemic shutdown.

Speakers and session leaders this year included the following:

- Julian Rose
- Donald Romanik
- D Littlepage
- Michelle Horsley
- Frank Kirkpatrick
- Elli Findly
- Roy McAlpine
- Trinity Community for Racial Justice
- Allison Bernhard and Donna Colliton
- Anne Rapkin
- Casey Rousseau
- Molly Loudon
- Trinity Church Parents
- Trinity Church College Students

Our goal is to provide inspiring input for the continued spiritual formation of Trinity parishioners. Committee participants this past year have included Pat Bunker, Martha Freimuth, Frank Kirkpatrick, Roy McAlpine, and Everett Post, with Mark MacGougan as convener and Dee as “faculty advisor”.

We are now in the process of planning for the 2021—2022 program year. Please contact any of us if you have an idea to suggest or are interested in joining us.

Submitted by Mark MacGougan

Book Group

Trinity’s Book Group met via Zoom this year due to the pandemic. Sadly, then, there was no dessert to start off our meeting! We met on Friday evenings at 7:00 for about an hour, and our discussions were always interesting and spirited. Our attendance numbers increased somewhat, with about 10 people attending regularly and others dropping in. A special guest was author Amity Gaige, a Trinity Church parishioner. Newcomers are always welcome to attend; this is not a closed “book club”! At the end of each meeting, we selected the next book, with the only requirement being that someone in the group has to have read it. We do try to read books with varied content: fiction and nonfiction, describing different parts of the world, etc. This year we read *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Sea Wife* by Amity Gaige, *Black Hole Blues* by Janna Levin, *A Perfect Life* by Eileen Pollack, *Vesper Flights* by Helen Macdonald, *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy, and will conclude with *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Submitted by Linda MacGougan

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

In the summer of 2020 in response to nationwide increased conversation about racism after the killing of George Floyd, the national president of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew (BOSTA), Mr. Jeff Butcher, created an ad hoc committee to develop a statement. Subsequently, Mr. Butcher refused to send the statement (Statement of BOSTA on Racial Strife in the United States, Appendix III) to the National Board of BOSTA for ratification. Despite subsequent conversations with African American men who were on the National Board and the ad hoc committee, Mr. Butcher continued to refuse to present the statement to the National Board. Therefore, the men who were involved with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew (BOSTA) at Trinity Church voted to withdraw their relationship with the national organization. (The St. John's, Vernon chapter also withdrew their relationship with the national organization.) Additionally, John Robinson, a member of Trinity and one of the leaders involved in the writing of the statement, resigned from the National Board. The men who were involved with the Brotherhood are in the process of possibly creating a men's group at Trinity Church.

Submitted by The Rev. D. Littlepage, *Rector*

Christian Formation for Children and Youth/Church School

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic there were no gatherings of Church School or other activities for children and youth.

Submitted by The Rev. D. Littlepage, *Rector*

Life in the Spirit Book Group

In response to a conversation with Al Shuckra during May 2021, a small group of Trinity's parishioners decided to read and discuss "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr, meeting by Zoom every Monday evening for an hour, over a number of months. The last chapter we read together the week after Al died. Our group then took on the name of "Life in the Spirit," and we continue to meet each week from September through June. We welcome new members at any time.

The other books we have read are: "The Book of Joy," by the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu, "Beginning to Pray" by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom, and "Listening to the Heartbeat of God : A Celtic Spirituality" by the Rev. Dr. J. Philip Newell. Book selection is by consensus, with no set program, and motivated solely by the interests of group members. We take a patient and supportive, and inquisitive, approach to our often-intimidating topic, "spirituality," and we consider ourselves a relaxed and friendly group.

We meet Mondays from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Our meetings will continue on Zoom, if necessary, restarting in 2021 in September. For more information, contact Drew Smith at ktadsmith@comcast.net or 860-331-9021.

Submitted by Steve Zhitnik

FAITH IN ACTION/OUTREACH QUADRANT

Liaison: Lily Miller

860-860-916-1994 millbabins@aol.com

The following information describes the active ministries from this area of our parish life. Our Outreach ministries are made possible by the generosity of our parishioners, through their time, talent and financial donations, annual allocations from the Trinity operating budget.

The Outreach Team seeks to assist any Trinity Parishioners with ministries which seek to serve God's mission. Those with ideas, needs and capacity to serve those who need assistance should contact Lily Miller or the coordinator of the ministry directly. You will note that many of the ministries need more bodies to help with their mission – to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world. This year we are discussing how the ministries in the Outreach Quadrant can assist parishioners in putting their faith in Action.

All are invited to attend Outreach quadrant meetings and take part in discussions. Because the meetings continue to be via zoom, you will need a Zoom invite. Don't hesitate to reach out to me (Lily Miller) or Barbara Roos for an invite.

In 2020 the Outreach committee made the following allocations from the Outreach Budget:

	Amount
Loaves & Fishes	\$2,000
Food Share	2,250
Five Talents donation \$500 in March and \$500 in November	1,000
AFEDJ – donation of \$3000 in March and \$1000 in December	4,000
Tanzania Scholarships	7,040
Trinity Academy	5,200
St. Monica's Church	1,500
Refugee Fund -Rector's Discretionary Fund	<u>1,500</u>
	\$24,490

Submitted by Lily Miller

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)

Because the church was closed due to Covid 19, there were no fundraisers for the Ahli Hospital this year at Christmas or Easter. A general appeal was put out at Christmas time and a few parishioners did respond. Their donations were sent directly to AFEDJ. A donation of \$1000 was sent from the Outreach team. The Outreach Team did not meet before Easter or the Annual meeting, so no further donations from Outreach have been sent. An appeal was sent directly to the congregation in May through electronic messaging. This appeal was sent due to the major conflict in Gaza.

Submitted by Kate Smith
Kate48Smith@comcast.net

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association

Trinity Church is represented on the AsylumHill Neighborhood Association. The group meets monthly on the 1st Monday at 6:15pm. AHNA is the working group for the Asylum Hill NRZ. Issues of development, safety , employment and quality of life are all discussed at meetings. There are representatives of the Police and Fire Departments present.

AHNA Mission: The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association empowers and connects residents and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in Asylum Hill. AHNA acknowledges that Asylum Hill is on traditional lands of the Poqonook, Sicoag, Tunxis and Wangunk tribes. There are eight task forces developed to address current planning strategies. 1. Economic development 2. Public Safety 3. Environment/Green Committee 4. Youth Enrichment 5. Housing/Historic Preservation/Blight remediation 6. Arts and Culture 7. Human Services 8. Employment/Jobs.

A quarterly report from the AHNA meetings can be found in issues of The Voice.

Submitted by Boo Morton

Church by the Pond – Bushnell Park Program

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

Matthew 25:34

Trinity Church participates six times a year in Church by the Pond at Bushnell Park, in support of the *Ecclesia Ministry* and *Church Street Eats* programs coordinated by Christ Church Cathedral.

While 2020-2021 was challenging to be able to gather in-person, Trinity volunteers ensured that bag lunches were delivered to the park on each of our scheduled Saturdays for volunteers from the Cathedral or Trinity to share with those in need. We also provided socks and other personal care items to be offered.

In addition, Reverend D. stepped right into the clergy rotation, and has become an integral part of this ministry.

We look forward this summer to being able to return fully in-person. Watch for articles in the VOICE, the weekly e-Voice and Sunday Bulletin announcements.

Submitted by Penny Pearson, pennypearson@comcast.net
and Percy Williamson, percywilliamson@yahoo.com

Covenant to Care

In 2006 Trinity became part of the Adopt A Social Worker program of Covenant to Care for Children in Hartford, joining other community and faith-based organizations to partner with social workers in providing special items for children in need. Many of you will remember contributing back-to-school backpacks in August, Christmas gifts in December, foster placement packs in May and most recently sneakers in Lent.

Unfortunately, over the years, Trinity's relationship with Covenant to Care broke down. But the good news is that we are reconnecting and looking to partner with a local social worker to help meet needs of children in this social worker's caseload. Rev. D. has reached out to learn more about how Trinity can help in this important role.

Watch for articles in the VOICE, the weekly e-Voice and Sunday bulletin announcements for more news as we move forward!

Submitted by Penny Pearson
pennypearson@comcast.net

Five Talents

Five Talents, formed out of the 1998 Lambeth Conference as a Christian response to global poverty and is inspired by the biblical Parable of the Talents (which teaches that we should all work to multiply the resources we are given) and the call of Jesus to minister to the poor. We do not evangelize and people of all faiths, and none, join our programs.

Our goal is to transform lives through economic empowerment, working to eradicate extreme poverty, restore human dignity and create strong, sustainable communities.

We work with local Anglican Church organizations to help train some of the poorest on earth to save, start small businesses and improve their lives. Since it was formed, we have worked in 14 countries and in 2021 we are in eight: South Sudan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Myanmar and Bolivia.

Five Talents works through groups, training enterprising members to save money and learn business skills. We also provide literacy and numeracy training first, or trauma healing in conflict areas, as needed.

Last year, as the Covid 19 pandemic swept the world and hit the communities we support, we surveyed groups to find out how they were being affected and how prepared they were for the crisis to worsen.

- Were they aware of Covid-19 and of simple precautions to limit its spread?
- If they could not continue meeting, would they still allow members to deposit savings or take / repay loans? How?
- How would they communicate with one another?
- What would they do if they became unable to meet their basic needs?
- What would they do if others in the community become unable to meet their basic needs?

We learned that many groups had not made plans for a crisis such as this. We quickly pivoted to Covid-awareness training and teaching group members basic prevention measures: wearing mask, washing hands, social distancing, etc. We gave groups technical advice on paying out their saved funds and meeting safely and encouraged them to consider their groups themselves as key actors in meeting the needs of the community. We also sought to learn from and share with other NGOs on Covid-responses.

In many areas Five Talents savings groups have continued to meet, albeit in smaller groups, with masks, social distancing, and new guidelines. In other areas, only leaders could gather or we've had to pause group meetings and trainings.

Our savings group model enables communities to not only find a sustainable way out of severe poverty, but also better weather times of intense uncertainty such as this global health pandemic.

We anticipate savings groups will continue to be a valuable and trusted platform to disseminate recommendations on preventing the spread of Coronavirus. Our savings groups have a 'Mercy Fund' used for medical needs and other emergencies as members have little to no access to healthcare. For many members, this is a lifeline.

We are incredibly proud that through this entire pandemic, Five Talents has continued to ensure the salaries of all our local field trainers who guide, train and communicate regularly with community-based, volunteer facilitators.

Submitted by Everett Post

Foodshare

The year has seen a number of changes for Foodshare, located in Bloomfield, which have and may still affect our work of assisting on mobile units, and reclaiming packaged groceries, meat and produce in the warehouse, for distribution of food in Hartford and Tolland Counties. The COVID 19 pandemic and the required personal cautions and isolation meant that all the warehouse volunteer members of Trinity Church, who are in the high-risk category, took an extended leave of absence, from late spring until November, when we began to trickle back a few at a time. Since the end of 2020 we all have returned to the grocery-sorting (salvage) teams every Wednesday. One volunteer, Peter Green, never took time away, and continued to staff outdoor mobile sites every other Monday, driving to each of them in his car. The other big event for Foodshare is its merger with Connecticut Food Bank early in 2021. The merger will mean major changes in the agency's operations for the staff, and may mean changes to how we will work as volunteers. We are awaiting official word of Board decisions. In addition to volunteer time by Trinity parishioners, \$2250.00 was donated to Foodshare from the Outreach Committee's 2020 budget. In 2021 the Outreach Committee has authorized a monthly contribution of \$250.00. Volunteers always are welcome! The mobile and salvage warehouse work is physical, fast paced, with a great staff and team of fellow volunteers — all directly helping to meet a huge need for good food. Come, visit. Better yet, give it a try! Contact me for more info or to look and see. It's a privilege and joy to serve in Foodshare!

Submitted by Drew Smith, *Coordinator*
ktadsmith@comcast.net

Heads Up! Hartford

Heads Up! Hartford is a faith-based week-long camp uniting urban and suburban youth to improve our communities and develop as leaders. Due to the pandemic, HUH in-person camp scheduled for June 2020 was cancelled. Instead, there were afternoon and evening virtual meetings of youth done on an informal basis. This spring, plans are underway to hold a week of camp from June 19-26 on a hybrid basis, with several in-person days but otherwise online.

Submitted by Linda MacGougan
Macgougans@gmail.com
Trinity's Liaison with Heads Up! Hartford

Kateri Medical Services medical outreach to the Anglican Diocese of Kaduna

The Faith in Action/Outreach Committee supports the vital mission of Kateri Medical Services, which provides non-sectarian essential medical services to urban and rural communities in Nigeria. Everyone is invited to participate in yearly missions by Kateri, whether by accompanying the medical staff and other volunteers or by sponsoring an individual who wishes to do so. During the pandemic, none of Trinity's parishioners were able to accompany a Kateri mission, but the Outreach Committee provided financial support.

Submitted by Anne Rapkin
a.rapkin@snet.net

Loaves and Fishes – Food Assistance

This program, formerly housed at Trinity, and now based at Immanuel Congregational Church at the corner of Woodland Street and Farmington Avenue, serves lunch on weekdays and offers other support services to those in need in the Asylum Hill neighborhood. Trinity Church is committed to providing the meal on the third Wednesday of each month.

Pre-Covid Shutdown:

The meal is prepared each month in Trinity's kitchen the Tuesday before the meal is served. Meal ingredients are purchased by volunteers Kate Rousseau and family. A volunteer cooking crew, prepares, packages, and delivers the meal. Our volunteers are Louisa Cummings, Marion Pereira, Verona Cascio, Susan Post, and Steve Zhitnik. The volunteer cooking crew provides two menus: Make -Your-Own Tuna Fish sandwiches during the warmer months and a chicken/sausage/vegetable and rice dish for the cooler months. Another group of volunteers, from Trinity and other Hartford area churches, headed by Karin Peterson, serves the monthly meal on Trinity's Wednesday at Loaves and Fishes. The Trinity serving team includes Peter Greene, Jon Widing, Nancy Crandall, and Bruce Wazorko; supplemented by two other faithful volunteers from other churches. Between 75 and 100 individuals are served each month, with numbers averaging in the 80's.

Since Covid Shutdown:

Once it became impossible to cook and serve at Loaves and Fishes, Trinity started donating the average amount used to shop for our monthly meal, \$250, directly to Loaves and Fishes. Our donations are used to assemble take-out weekly food bags for the Loaves and Fishes clients. Our donation amount was increased to \$500 in May 2020 and returned to \$250 in January 2021. We intend to continue this monthly donation until we can return to the reopened Loaves and Fishes site. As of May 2021, Loaves and Fishes on-site feeding will not be reopening until its clients have been vaccinated—for their protection. We are hoping that we may be able to restart this ministry in September 2021. Individual donations of cash and/or canned food can be made directly to Loaves and Fishes, go to:

<http://www.loavesfishesministries.org/>

We need more participation from the Parish.

The outstanding issue for this ministry is that we need more volunteers to cook. We have tried to recruit new volunteers from the Parish without success. The cooking portion of this ministry will not survive in a Post-Covid world without more volunteers.

Submitted by Steve Zhitnik
S.Zhitnik@snet.net

Mbugani Parish/ Diocese of Tabora, Tanzania

In late 2020 Trinity Church's Faith in Action team sent \$7000 in scholarship money for 7 students from Mbugani to attend their third year of secondary school during 2021 at St. Peter's School of Tabora Diocese.

We will fund the final year of study (2022) for these students before the end of this year.

The Faith in Action team will then reassess our relationship with the people of Mbugani and Tabora Diocese as part of our discernment for next steps for Trinity's mission and outreach.

Submitted by Heather Kramer
KramerHeather1989@yahoo.com

Refugee Resettlement

Despite the pandemic, Trinity's Refugee Resettlement Team, in partnership with International Refugee and Immigration Services, an agency in New Haven, continued to support refugee families. The two families we co-sponsored in 2016 and 2017 from Syria and Afghanistan, respectively, are doing well; the adults are employed and the children thriving in school, and the adults look forward to applying for citizenship at the end of 2021. In addition, the Team undertook to assist a third family which was settled a few years ago in Hartford by a different agency; this family is from Congo via a Tanzanian refugee camp. The Team hopes to work with additional refugee families in the months to come.

The team welcomes new members who would like to join in the life-saving, and exceptionally rewarding, work of resettling refugee families from around the world.

Submitted by Anne Rapkin
a.rapkin@snet.net

South Marshall Street Interfaith Coalition

South Marshall Street, long regarded as one of the most challenged streets on Asylum Hill, is home to 200 refugee families, as well as residents of Marshall House Family Shelter, several Section 8 apartments, and 24 Habitat homes housing over 250 children – just three blocks from Trinity Church.

The South Marshall Street Interfaith Coalition was formed through a cooperative coming together of churches (Immanuel Congregational, Trinity Episcopal, Grace Lutheran, Asylum Hill Congregational), businesses (Aetna), and non-profit organizations (Asylum Hill Neighborhood Assn., Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity), along with many other businesses and non-profit organizations on Asylum Hill to create positive change while instilling a cohesive sense of community into this once neglected neighborhood.

Because of COVID, the Coalition held meetings occasionally on Zoom for the purpose of working together to find solutions to enhance the lives of the residents in the neighborhood.

In the past the Coalition has sponsored a series of seasonal Block Parties on the street, held in June, October, and April, where food, fun-activities, and music blend with representatives from churches and community service organizations providing information about free medical and social services available to the residents.

Because no activities were held this year, no monies were expended from the Trinity budget for the Coalition. Additionally as of this writing, this ministry is in search of someone to represent Trinity at Coalition meetings. In the past it has been a struggle to get volunteers from the congregation to participate as representatives of Trinity at the Coalition sponsored activities. As we move forward this year we will need to assess Trinity's continued involvement in this ministry. If you would like to participate in and support Trinity's involvement in the Coalition, please contact Lily Miller or Rev. D.

Submitted by Lily Miller

Trinity Academy Support

The primary way that Trinity Church supports Trinity Academy is by providing rent-free space for the school. This helps to make the school possible, and it puts portions of our parish buildings to wonderful, community-building use. During this past year, Trinity Academy, like most schools, experienced extended period when they weren't able to use the school due to the pandemic lockdown. There were also a few times when the space set aside for the school wasn't usable due to plumbing problems – providing a pointed reminder of why we needed a Capital Campaign for our buildings.

Some of the other ways that Trinity Church and its members have historically supported Trinity Academy weren't possible during the past school year. Due to the pandemic, the school wasn't able to allow on-site volunteers. The school also wasn't able to host its normal gala – an important fundraising event for the school.

Through the Outreach Committee, the church donated \$5,200 to Trinity Academy this past year. Of this amount, \$3,200 was earmarked for special costs associated with hybrid learning – Zoom accounts for the school and new Chromebooks for students. The remaining \$2,000 was a general donation to the Trinity Academy budget.

We hope and expect that there will be opportunities for parishioners to volunteer with students and help with the gala and other special events in the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

For more information or to get involved, contact Walton Brown-Foster or Mark MacGougan.

Submitted by Mark MacGougan

The Trinity Community for Racial Justice

The TCRJ was established in July of 2020, shortly after (and in response to) a virtual parish meeting where we listened and learned about one another's experiences with racism immediately after the murder of George Floyd.

We have the following objectives:

- To celebrate Trinity Church's diverse membership and ensure that all persons are welcomed and supported, including in their personal struggle with pervasive racism and injustice in our society.
- To learn from the resources of the Episcopal Church In Connecticut (ECCT) Ministry for Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation and to become active participants in that ministry.
- To develop as a team of parishioners dedicated to working for racial justice within our parish, our communities and the nation, as a way to put our faith into action.

The TCRJ spent the remainder of 2020, continuing into 2021, meeting these objectives. We have created a webpage on the Trinity Hartford site that focuses on themes relevant to our mission. Most recently those have been disparities and inequities in healthcare and housing.

We have become active participants in the ECCT Ministry for Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation.

A Resolution recently passed during our 2020 Convention will require churches in the diocese to train all church leaders on the topic of anti-racism and to investigate each church's history and/or participation in the legacy of slavery and/or racial injustice. The ECCT will create and provide specific training modules/material.

The investigation of our church history in the legacy of slavery and/or racial injustice will begin once the campus has fully opened and access to the archives is possible. We attended ECCT workshops that gave specific examples and guidance about how to undertake the research. We have agreed that a team will be formed to support our archivist, and we will ask church members to help us research several eras in our history.

Submitted by the members of the TCRJ
Heather Kramer
Martha Freimuth
Kitty Peterson
Cathy Rowe
Suzanne Blancaflor

PARISH CARE QUADRANT

Liaison: Anne Rapkin
860-521-5992 a.rapkin@snet.net

Casserole Ministry

The purpose of this ministry is to provide prepared meals to parishioners and their families when someone in the household is convalescing from surgery or illness, hospitalized, caring for a newborn, newly-bereaved, or experiencing any other crisis that makes food preparation difficult to manage. This past year has been a busy for the Casserole Ministry. Anyone who would like to utilize this opportunity to help care for the sick and extend God's love to others during their times of need is encouraged to participate in this ministry.

Submitted by Anne Rapkin

Intercessory Prayer Team

Members of the Intercessory Prayer Team are available during communion at the 10 a.m. Sunday worship service to pray with you whenever you feel in special need of God's healing and comforting presence, or are celebrating a joyful event in your life or the life of someone you love. Team members meet monthly for fellowship and conversation as a means of deepening their own spiritual lives. The Team is a vital lay ministry in the life of our parish. During these last 13 months, when church worship was conducted online, Team members devoted themselves to make phone calls to parishioners who were particularly isolated due to the pandemic. Those interested in joining the Intercessory Prayer Team are invited to speak with the rector.

Submitted by Anne Rapkin

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Eucharistic Visitors are Trinity parishioners who are trained and authorized to offer the Eucharist to persons who, due to illness or other reasons, cannot join in congregational worship. During the pandemic, home visits were not made, but the Eucharistic Visitors are expected to return to their ministry very soon.

Submitted by Anne Rapkin

Sanctuary Stitchers

The Sanctuary Stitchers, Trinity's prayer shawl ministry group, gathered every other Saturday morning via Zoom throughout the 2020-2021 program year. These have been special connections for fellowship when in-person gatherings were not possible.

While our members continued to create prayer shawls and baby blankets, our main project was winter hats and scarves which were offered to those in need at Church by the Pond in December and February.

This group is open to all who create for the benefit of others, and we welcome ideas for how to further this ministry going forward. We hope to return to in-person gatherings in September. Watch for articles in the VOICE, the weekly e-Voice and Sunday bulletin announcements.

Submitted by Penny Pearson

Property Team

Committee Members: Peer Green, Tom Oberholtzer, Alan Rice, Kathie Wilson, Vinnie Pacileo, Erica Weinstock and Boo Morton. Attending, as able, and needed are Casey Rousseau and Rev. D.

In August 2020 longtime committee member Ron Gripp resigned. He was a wealth of knowledge for us and is sorely missed. Thank you, Ron!

The Property Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at 7:00 p.m. We welcome anyone to attend. If learning about, or assisting with, the property at Trinity (inside or outside) is a passion for you, please don't hesitate to speak with a committee member!

The Committee is responsible for overseeing the campus of Trinity Church, to keep it working and providing the space we all know and love. This has been an evolving vision and ensuing reality. While no services are held inside, there has been lots of work being done. Health and safety is foremost for the individuals who do work inside. This includes all the contractors and workers who are assisting with the Capital Campaign, office staff, music program folks and the Rector.

This year's work days were limited to outside work. A few enthusiastic people helped to keep the place looking good over the summer. Parishioners assist with lawn mowing, weeding and watering. A new group provides upkeep to the Memorial Garden. Erica Weinstock has graciously stepped forward to lead this group. It has evolved from Erica and Enid Oberholtzer's care of the Memorial Garden last year. We are so grateful to these individuals.

The year has had its challenges. There were numerous acts of vandalism when the property was empty. Additional security was hired for a short time. We have had to deal with flooding from broken pipes to plumbing back-ups. Vinnie, and Barbara Roos, take it all in stride. Soon there will be a new sign at the Farmington Avenue entrance. A vehicle accident flattened the original.

The church buildings will be open soon and there will be rules and protocols to follow for health and safety reasons. Please help us be safe and remain open.

Thank you for all your help with maintaining our wonder space of welcome, hope and healing. And thanks to Vinnie, Trinity Academy, the staff of Trinity and the Choir School of Hartford for their faithful nurturing of our buildings and grounds. Finally, a special thank you to Peter Green, Neill Derick and Tom Oberholtzer for all the work they have been doing that we never see done but always notice!

Submitted by Barbara "Boo" Morton, *Property Chair*

Memorial Garden Committee

The Memorial Garden volunteers are committed to making the gardens and Trinity beautiful and welcoming to all. Our primary responsibility is the upkeep of the gardens on the north side of the church. In addition we tend the gardens along the front on Sigourney Street. Tending the gardens includes a variety of activities depending on the growing season: raking leaves, pulling weeds, pruning bushes, mulching, applying eco-friendly weed killer to the labyrinth and paths, and watering gardens as needed. Of course a delightful treat is the time we spend visiting and sharing stories especially as we curb the monkey grass spreading!

Currently there are eight volunteers: George Chien, Enid Oberholtzer, Karin Peterson, Kate Smith, Peter Green, Linda MacGougan, Heather Kramer and Erica Weinstock. We meet in the gardens each Thursday from 9:30 to noon weather permitting. Vinnie Pacileo supports us with his enthusiasm and knowledge. We are a sub-group of the Property Committee.

Valerie Pogue does a wonderful job planting and taking care of the flowers on the south side near the parking lot.

We welcome anyone and all to come and join us as a Thursday regular, or an occasional contributor. Please contact Erica Weinstock (ericajw@mac.com) if you would like to join us or are interested in more information.

Submitted by Erica Weinstock, *Memorial Garden Committee Chair*

Grounds Upkeep

Trinity is blessed with beautiful grounds which complement the church buildings. They serve several different purposes. The Memorial Garden provides a restful place for outdoor services in the summer and for interment services. Please refer to the Memorial Garden report for more detail on the upkeep of this beautiful space. The grounds are also used by the Trinity Academy students for recess, and pickup and drop-off. Normally parishioners are able to enjoy refreshments in the Close in the summer after the Sunday service although events precluded this from happening in 2020.

The upkeep of the grounds is an important part of Trinity's ministry since the grounds are seen not only by parishioners, students and visitors, but also by those in the immediate neighborhood who pass by. Keeping them looking at their best is a major undertaking. Workdays are scheduled at various times during the year in which parishioners are invited to lend a hand performing tasks like spreading mulch in the spring and raking leaves in the fall. Thank you to the loyal core of volunteers who give up their Saturday mornings to help out.

Some parishioners also undertake to look after specific flower beds or perform particular tasks. Their help in this regard is greatly appreciated. Two examples are the bed next to the Education Wing and the one next to the handicapped ramp. Parishioners Valerie Pogue, Janet Wilkinson and Althea Francis attend to these beds. Lawncare is a major task that is on-going from spring to fall and Neill Derick does an admirable job keeping the lawns trimmed.

In 2020 the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association received a grant to establish pollinator gardens at various locations in the area. Trinity was a beneficiary of this grant and received plants and topsoil that were used to establish a garden in an area of the Close. The garden is still getting established and needs additional people to help care for it.

Please consult the Voice and the eVoice for garden opportunities. You may also contact Peter Green for more information. Any amount of help is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Peter Green

WORSHIP QUADRANT

Liaison: Peter Green
860-236-1457 pmgreen76@gmail.com

Acolyte Program

Without in-person worship, the acolytes did not serve this past year. With pandemic restrictions, they could not gather for the usual Fall and Spring outings.

When we stopped worship services, these were the acolytes serving:

Kenny Okeke
Malik Allen-Thomas
Tro Moo
Jonathan Garcia
Juan Matos
Trocari Griffith-McCalop
Julius Blanchard
Isabella Morrison
Garvey Udokwu (who graduated in 2020)

We welcome all young people, from age 9 on, to join the acolyte ministry as we will begin again in September 2021 to worship together in person.

Submitted by Roy McAlpine

Altar Guild

Since the 2020 -2021 'church year' was a very unusual year, the Altar Guild was unable to function as they normally do. Services in the church were cancelled for a large part of the year and when services resumed via livestream and Zoom with only the Rector, choristers and cantors in attendance, the Altar Guild function was performed by Rev. D and Rev. George Chien. This included ordering various supplies as necessary.

Prior to Covid-19, the Altar Guild was ably led by Karin Peterson. Karin has since decided to relinquish this role but will continue to serve on an occasional basis. The Parish is very grateful to Karin for her years of service and for her work putting together a manual that covers all the different functions that the Altar Guild at Trinity Church performs. This will be a most useful document for current and future members of the Altar Guild to refer to. Thank you, Karin, for devoting your time to this effort.

In normal times the Parish relies on a small number of volunteers to keep the Altar Guild functioning properly. The number of people who serve in this capacity has diminished in recent years and there is a very great need to add more people to the Altar Guild. Members normally serve once a month at either the 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. service according to their preference, and some members work as a team. If you are interested in finding out more about this ministry, please contact Rev. D or Peter Green. Thank you.

Submitted by Peter Green, *Worship Quadrant Leader*

Flower Guild

Trinity Church is still one of the few remaining churches that does its own flower arrangements. Since the closure of the church due to Covid 19, our Flower Guild has been put on the back burner until this Christmas, when we did manage to have Christmas flowers on the altar. Since Christmas, George Chien and I have been alternating Sundays to provide altar floral arrangements.

We also were also able to provide flowers for the Easter services. We hope that all arrangements visible during YouTube services have been enjoyed.

Since the church is opening for in-person services on June 6th for both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services, we will again be providing arrangements on the altar, hoping that the few Flower Guild members are still willing to participate.

I know that several Flower Guild members have missed arranging flowers for Sunday services due to the closure of the church from COVID-19. Hopefully many of us will be able to once again enjoy the beauty of Trinity Church and see the altar filled with beautiful arrangements.

The Flower Guild welcomes new people who enjoy playing with flowers. We are actively seeking more members.

Submitted by Percy Williamson, *Co-Chair*

Hospitality/Sunday Fellowship Hour

Romans (12:13) - Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality

1Peter (4:9) - Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

Trinity's Fellowship Hour (aka Coffee Hour) exemplifies Trinity's Church Mission of a place of welcome, hope and healing. Hospitality hour normally offers parishioners and guests a time to socialize after listening and participating in a spiritual service of worship, songs and meditating on God's words. However, since there were no in-person services during the past year due to Covid-19, parishioners have been meeting via Zoom after the service. This has allowed many members to stay in touch and feel connected with one another as well as providing encouragement to one another during this difficult time. Thanks to Casey and Jake for setting up the breakout rooms on Zoom at the end of each service."

When normal services will begin again in the near future and socialization is once again permitted, the hospitality ministry will be able to function once again and resume offering hot or cold refreshments after the service according to the season as well as fresh fruit. Jennifer Stephen is the leader of this ministry and she is ably assisted by Zaida Martinez and numerous parishioners.

Submitted by Peter Green, *Worship Quadrant Leader*

Usher Ministry

The Usher ministry has been unable to function since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Until that point it had a loyal core of volunteers and included some new members. They look forward to serving at the 10:00 service again soon. The role of the ushers is to greet parishioners and visitors as they arrive at the church, hand out programs, take up the elements to the altar and collect the offering. Bill Kofalk serves as the Head Usher and is a faithful member of the parish. He ensures that the usher schedule is prepared each month and the usher ministry runs smoothly under his watchful eye.

Submitted by Peter Green, *Worship Quadrant Leader*

Worship Assistants

In normal times Trinity has a large number of parishioners who assist at worship in a variety of roles. During the 2020 -2021 'church year' nothing was normal. Change and adaptability ruled. The readers and intercessors transitioned from the regular practice of reading from the lectern in the nave to:

- First, reading live on Zoom
- And then, recording lessons on cell phones or webcams for inclusion in live streamed Youtube services
- And now, a gradual transition back to hybrid in-person/live -streamed services.

We are sincerely grateful to everyone for their patience and flexibility during this most uncertain time.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers have had no opportunity to function since mid-March of 2020, since in-person worship has been suspended. They will once again begin to participate in the coming months but exactly how, and when, is still unclear.

Our physical vergers, Ray Wilson and Roy McAlpine, have also not been able to participate with in-person services suspended.

Casey Rousseau and Jake Troiano, our 'virtual vergers', have done a outstanding job in preparing our various forms of digital worship and communication and in overseeing the actual services and other events in real time. Their efforts have been vital in allowing the Trinity community to stay connected during the pandemic. They have pioneered a role which will continue into the future with our hybrid services.

All of us look forward with great anticipation to something more closely approximating, normal as we move further into 2021.

Submitted by Ray Wilson, *Coordinator*

Worship Leaders

Members of Trinity Church have been conducting weekly Sunday services on Sunday at the Caleb-Hitchcock nursing facility (part of the Duncaster life care community) since 1984. The past year was like no other! No outside visitors have been allowed since mid-March of 2020 and so services have been suspended since that time.

Duncaster is, very gradually and cautiously, reopening and is eager to have services resume once their reopening plan allows outside visitors to meet with groups of residents.

The Sunday service at Caleb-Hitchcock has been very important to its congregation (normally, pre_COVID, 15 to 25 residents and visiting family and friends). It provides the opportunity to do something 'special' and familiar on Sunday morning, as most of the residents did for most of their lives. We see residents with significant cognitive problems who are able to be involved in the service - particularly familiar hymns and texts such as the Creed and Lord's Prayer. This is truly a rewarding ministry for both the congregation and the Worship Leaders. We are eager to resume. Updates will be circulated as more information from Duncaster becomes available.

Anyone who would like to explore this ministry further can talk with Ray Wilson in order to get more information.

Submitted by Ray Wilson, *Coordinator*

AFFILIATED MINISTRIES

12-Step Programs

The Saturday morning Vietnam veteran's group of A.A. has been meeting on zoom for one year now.

As loyalty to the church they had continued to pay rent for the room, up until this last month.

It had been voted by the group to move to a more convenient, and private location for the safety of the students and group members. They opted for something more street level, with more distancing options.

I am unaware of the other groups' intentions as tradition keeps us all autonomous, of our own group conscious.

Submitted by Bill Kofalk

Goodwin Legacy Circle

What can each of us do to help secure the long-term vibrancy and mission of Trinity Church? One important step is to include Trinity Church as one of the beneficiaries in your will.

More than thirty parish members have taken this step. Together, we are the Goodwin Legacy Circle (formerly known as the Heritage Society).

If you would like to join the Goodwin Legacy Circle, the first step is to update your will or estate planning to include Trinity Church. You should do this with the help of an attorney. The second step is to fill out a brief Legacy Circle form. You can get a form from the church office or from Mark or Linda MacGougan, who are the current co-chairs.

Each of us at Trinity Church has benefited from the funds that were donated in the wills of parishioners who have gone before us. The members of the Goodwin Legacy Circle believe that it is now our turn to do our part for future generations.

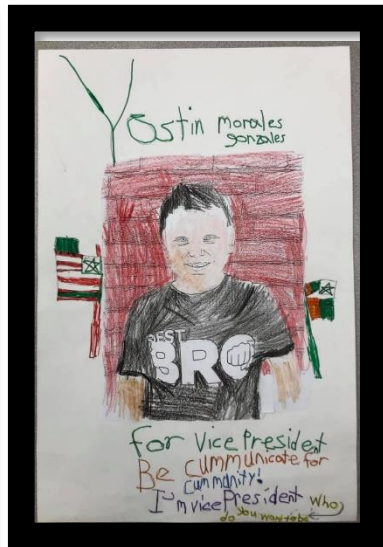
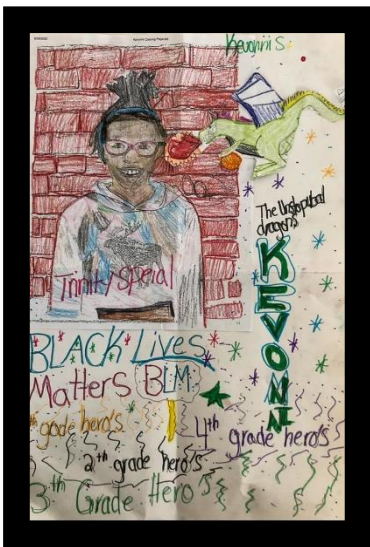
If you have any questions, please Barbara Roos at the church office or Mark or Linda MacGougan at (860-561-1588 or macgougans@gmail.com).

Submitted by Mark and Linda MacGougan, *Co-Chairs*

Trinity Academy -Where Students Discover the Love of Learning 2020-2021 School Year In Review

Since COVID-19 continued to pose several obstacles at the end of summer, Trinity Academy's school year started off in late August with our 40 students learning virtually via Zoom for 5 hours a day. It was not what we had planned but the health of our students and staff were and always be our utmost concern.

On October 1st, our students were able to return back to Trinity's campus! We were so happy to be able to be together again as well as to finally meet our new first graders in person! Our school also looked a bit different with see through desk partitions at each desk and students spaced six feet apart. But since everyone was so happy to be back – our students did not seem to mind and had no trouble keeping their masks on all day!



On November 13th, Trinity held its first student body election! Our fourth and third graders were given the opportunity to campaign for themselves, with fourth graders running for School President and third graders running for School Vice President. After several campaign speeches, our students elected Kevonni as President and Yostin as Vice President!

They meet with Miss B, our principal, once a week to discuss school activities as well as bring up suggestions made by their classmates that might be a value to the Trinity community.

For the majority of the winter, due to several COVID-19 outbreaks, our students returned to studying virtually. We continued sending our students and their families grocery store gift cards periodically to ensure that our students would be able to eat as well at home as they do when they are at school. On March 1st, our students returned back to the Trinity campus! Again, we were overjoyed to be back together again!

To our dismay, Trinity Academy had to cancel its annual signature fundraiser, *The Excellence Gala*, again this spring due to COVID's restrictions and limitations. The Gala typically provides over 20% of Trinity's general operating funds. After much thought, we rolled out our *Spring Campaign for Trinity* with the hope that our previous Gala sponsors as well as attendees would consider providing a direct donation this year in lieu of a sponsorship and/or ticket purchase. So far, we are approaching \$40,000 in Campaign proceeds. We hope to make our \$50,000 goal by the end of the school year. If you are interested in contributing to *the Spring Campaign for Trinity*, please visit our website for more information or follow this link: [SPRING CAMPAIGN FOR TRINITY | Mysite \(trinityday.org\)](https://www.trinityday.org)

We will be completing the 2020-2021 school year on Friday, June 4th with a Moving Up Ceremony for our fourth graders. An outdoor ceremony for our students and their families in Trinity Episcopal Church's parking lot is currently being planned. As we approach the end of another school year, Trinity Academy's staff and students wish to thank Trinity Episcopal Church's amazing congregation for its continuing support and generosity! We could never have weathered such a storm like COVID-19 without you! Godspeed!

Submitted by Donna Colliton, *Exe. Dir. of Administration and Development*
Trinity Academy

The Campaign for Trinity Program year 2020-2021

We are pleased to report another successful year for The Capital Campaign for Trinity: Celebrating A Place of Faithful Service to Hartford. The Campaign, which launched in the summer of 2018, has been transitioned into its third year—with the finish line in sight. The Campaign set out to build up not only the bricks and mortar of Trinity's buildings, but also the church community and the community we serve.

Over the past year, the Campaign has enabled many projects that have restored and improved Trinity's physical plant. This work hasn't been seen by many people yet because of the pandemic restrictions. It appears that the church and Trinity Academy and the Choir School of Hartford and other groups that use our campus will all be able to resume in-person activities soon. As they do, the work enabled by the Campaign will be a blessing to many people in the greater Hartford community and beyond for many years to come.

The beginning of this program year focused on completing some of the projects mentioned in our last annual report: the new kitchen range, a safer choir loft railing, upgraded lighting in the nave, a new Choir Room fire door, and the restoration of what had been a rotting Parish House porch. Our program year continued with a variety of additional projects.

AV Equipment

In the early summer of 2020, the Campaign acquired new audio and visual equipment—containing from cameras, microphones, and recording/video editing software—in order to offer a better quality service to all the parishioners who worshiped via online because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Carpeting the Sanctuary

In June 2020, the work of this program year began with the recarpeting of Trinity's sanctuary. The old carpeting was stained and had noticeable burnt patches around the altar. A complete removal and installation of new carpet was completed—fitting with other previous projects regarding the new lighting and choir loft reinforcement, in order to complete the renovation of the sanctuary.

HVAC Boiler Renovation

Another pivotal project completed in June 2020 concerned mechanical repairs to the boiler and HVAC system. There was considerable asbestos in the basement of the church and parish house. The asbestos was removed along the boilers, and much of the insulation in the piping was replaced and updated for more dependability and prolonged use. A new temperature relief valve was placed on one of the two boilers, as well the replacement of a leaking circulation pump on the boiler system. Along with these repairs came a contract for regular maintenance and care of the two boilers. The campaign also installed a new expansion tank, which replaced two faulty tanks, to ensure that the boilers heat the building at maximum efficiency. Originally, the Campaign (based on an initial review by the architects who examined Trinity Church) thought the best course of action would be the replacement of the water pipe heating system in the sanctuary. However, after consulting with various companies and expert advice, we determined that the current heating pipes are quite energy and cost efficient to heat a building as large as Trinity, and arguably one of the best for radiating heat evenly and safely into the building.

Parish House Porch Completion

In September 2020, the doors were installed to complete the parish house porch renovation. These doors have been fitted with new glass windows, fresh paint, and stoppers.

Security Upgrades

In Fall of 2020 (with the contract being signed in October), A new security system was installed for Trinity Church, which now offers better monitoring inside and outside of the buildings. The new Security project began with the removal of all the wiring and camera equipment from the office. All the wiring was pulled back down to the room in the basement directly below, with the installation of a commercial grade, wall mounted, ventilated equipment enclosure. Inside the building now contains a network patch panel, network switch, network video recorder and UPS. A single wire now runs up to the office and displays a live view from all cameras on a new High Definition 50-inch video monitor that was installed. In addition, any internet connected computer, SMART phone, or tablet (both on and off site) is now able to view live or recorded video from the cameras.

The new cameras are megapixel resolution, offering 2 megapixels for indoor cameras and exterior cameras covering entryways, and 5 megapixels for outdoor cameras covering a large area—such as our Memorial Garden and parking lot. These cameras provide high resolution of live and recorded images

that offer magnifying features for greater detail. In addition, these new cameras have IR illumination in order to provide useful images in low or no light conditions. These cameras came with varifocal lenses that allowed Trinity to customize the cameras field of view during installation. These cameras also utilize remote focus, a feature that allows you to refocus a camera without paying for a remote security technician. New sensors have now been installed on door jams along entryways to rooms or other segments of the building. Sonitrol, the company that has installed these new security measures and monitors them, has also taken over the task of monitoring Trinity's fire security as well.

Security improvements also benefitted Trinity Academy, as a computer/smart device remote door activation system was installed. This allows the faculty and staff of the school to see any potential threats from their offices, allowing remote entry or denial.

Roofing, Gutters, and Re-pointing

Along the same time as the renovation concerned with the security system, Trinity Church began to deal with many of the brick and mortar weaknesses that were causing leaks and water damage around the campus. The Campaign brought in Cenaxo to address issues surrounding the roof, gutters, and outside masonry of the parish. They began by surveying the campus with a drone, isolating weak and failing parts of our roof, while also dealing with incorrectly sized downspouts and damaged gutters from previous winters. Cenaxo replaced many of the broken and damaged slates to the roof and worked to secure gutters which had been warped or damaged from weather extremities and icy conditions. A lot of gutter work centered around re-routing water that had previously drained to the Memorial Garden, where it would pool and leak into the undercroft (church basement). Cenaxo is now, as we have entered the spring season, beginning the re-pointing process of bricks around the campus. Securing the roof, gutters, and the re-pointing of bricks will protect us from future damage and the cost of repairs that stem from these problems.

Current Consideration and Future Projects

Currently, the Campaign is looking towards the implementation of an improved fire safety system. Trinity secured three bids from reputable companies and has chosen an installation contractor. If we can raise the full amount of our goal, we will be able to fully fund the new fire safety system and spruce the place up with some painting and pavement resurfacing.

During the course of our renovations, one surprising discovery concerned the brownstone steps leading up to the main church doors facing Sigourney Street. In researching a water pooling issue, we discovered that those stairs were not on solid ground but were being supported by a pipe-jacking system. We have rendered them safe for the time being while we consider the best long-term solution. This shows that the more we get into the bones of the Trinity campus, the more stories it has to tell from the past—for better and for worse.

Finances and Acknowledgements

The Capital Campaign's current total (including pledges received from parishioners of Trinity and the Diaspora) is \$646,110.41, which is about 87% of our final goal. We have received a small grant from the ECCT this year, and are waiting to hear back from another grant opportunity this summer. The work of the Campaign would not have been possible without the assistances and directional support from many people, including the following:

- The Steering Committee comprised of Andrew Smith, Mark and Linda MacGougan, Martha Freimuth, Cathie Rowe, Bill Eakins, Courtney Bourns, Ernestine Weaver, Ken Johnson. The Steering Committee was vital in overseeing the structure and vision of the Campaign, as well as increasing its support and guiding its direction.
- The Capital Works Committee comprised of Tom Oberholtzer, Kathie Wilson, Steve Sirotko, Barbara (Boo) Morton, Kevin Chick, Martha Freimuth, and Rev. Dee Littlepage. A special thanks goes out to Dave Desmarais, who has served as the point person between the companies and Trinity, handling all scheduling, bids, and overall work progress. The Capital Works Committee reviewed and analyzed company bids and project timelines—determining what should be done, when it should be done, and who should do it.
- Most importantly, we are tremendously grateful to everyone who has pledged and donated so generously, and to all those who have helped with the work of the Campaign. These improvements to Trinity Church would not be possible without your contributions. Thank You!

Patrick Reid, *Campaign Administrator*
Mark MacGougan and Drew Smith, *Campaign Co-Chairs*

THE PARISH OF TRINITY CHURCH
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR 2020-2021 ANNUAL MEETING

OFFICERS (1-year terms)

Wardens

Mark MacGougan.....1st term

TBD.....1st term

Clerk

Kathleen (Kitty) Peterson..... 7th term

Treasurer

Kenneth (Casey) Rousseau..... 3rd term

Assistant Treasurer

Jacob Troiano..... 3rd term

VESTRY – At-Large

3-year term: Suzanne Blancaflor

DELEGATE TO CONVENTION

Alternate (3 year term) — Cathy Rowe

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2021 Annual Meeting

2nd term to expire 2022: Kevin Chick, Kathie Wilson, Steve Zhitnik

1st term to expire 2023: Walton Brown-Foster, William Kofalk, Kevin Rennie,
Stephen Sirotko

SACRAMENTAL SUMMARY
JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2020

SACRAMENTAL SUMMARY

The following information was submitted to The Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and to The Episcopal Church in the 2020 Parochial Report:

Total Sunday & Saturday Evening Eucharist: 30 in person, 26 online

Total Weekday Eucharists: 11 in person, 1 online

Total Private Eucharists: 7 in person

Daily Offices held on Sunday: 16 in person, 29 online

Daily Offices held on Weekdays: 2 in person, 37 online

Sunday services were regularly held at 8am and 10am and weekday services were regularly held at Noon on Thursdays.

CELEBRATIONS / BLESSINGS OF MARRIAGES:

Natalie Belinda Thomas and Corey Teonne Smith.....October 24, 2020

MEMORIAL SERVICES/BURIALS:

Date of Death/Date of Service

Donald White.....January 25, 2020/February 2, 2020

Dwight Lamont Lee.....February 18, 2020/February 28, 2020

Clyde Edward JansingFebruary 24, 2020/February 29, 2020

Noel Ignatiev.....November 9, 2019/March 1, 2020

Mark L. Jacobs.....June 8, 2020/June 13, 2020

Jill Barrett..... July 22, 2020/July 26, 2020

Albert Carter Shuckra.....September 28, 2020/October 16, 2020

NOTES

How do I get involved with or find out more about...?

Choir School of Hartford

- Susan Post, Chair of the Board

Christian Formation (Clement Mogor, Liaison)

- Adult Formation, open
- Book Group, Linda MacGougan
- Church School, Clement Mogor, Kate Rousseau
- Journey To Adulthood, Marcus Clark
- Nursey Caregivers, Clement Mogor
- Parish Life (picnic/special events), open

Communications

- Trinity Church Website and Social Media, George Chien
- Weekly E-Voice, George Chien
- Quarterly 'The Voice' Newsletter, Kathie Wilson

Faith in Action/Outreach (Lily Miller, Liaison)

- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ), Kate Smith
- Church by the Pond, Penny Pearson & Percy Williamson
- Covenant to Care, Penny Pearson
- Foodshare, Drew Smith
- Heads Up Hartford!, Linda MacGougan
- Kateri Medical Services medical outreach to the Anglican Diocese of Kaduna, Anne Rapkin
- Loaves and Fishes, Steve Zhitnik
- Mbugani Parish/Diocese of Tabora, Tanzania, Heather Kramer
- Refugee Resettlement, Anne Rapkin
- Trinity Academy Support, Mark MacGougan

Goodwin Legacy Circle

- Mark and Linda MacGougan

Office Volunteers

- Barbara Roos, Parish Administrator

Parish Care (Anne Rapkin, Liaison)

- Casserole Ministry, Anne Rapkin
- Intercessory Prayer Team, Anne Rapkin
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Althea Francis
- Sanctuary Stitchers (Prayer Shawl Ministry), Penny Pearson

Property Team

- Boo Morton

Trinity Academy

- Allison Bernhard, Principal
- Donna Colliton, Exe. Dir. Admin & Development

Trinity Church Archives

- Liz Kirkpatrick, Archivist

Trinity Community for Racial Justice

- Heather Kramer

Worship (Peter Green, Liaison)

- Acolytes, Roy McAlpine
- Altar Guild, open
- Choirs, Michelle Horsley
- Duncaster, Ray Wilson
- Flower Guild, Percy Williamson & George Chien
- Hospitality, Jennifer Stephens
- Lay Worship Assistants (Lectors/Intercessors), Ray Wilson
- Ministers of Communion, Ray Wilson
- Sunday Morning Lay Leader Hosts, Alan Rice
- Ushers, Bill Kofalk
- Vergers, Ray Wilson

Appendix I

2020 Financial Report and 2021 Budget

The 2020 financial report and 2021 budget will be delivered during the Annual Meeting and then incorporated into the final report after the Annual Meeting.

Appendix II

Swearing in of Vestry and Commissioning of Lay Leaders

The newly elected leaders gather at the front of the altar.

Outgoing Warden: On behalf of the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church, I present:

N.N. elected Warden

N.N. elected Warden

N.N. elected Clerk

N.N. elected Treasurer

N.N. elected Assistant Treasurer

N.N., N.N., and N.N. elected Vestrypersons at large

N.N. elected (other positions elected)

Rector: Have these leaders been elected by the congregation or appointed by the vestry in accordance with the bylaws of our congregation?

Outgoing Warden: They have.

Rector: *(to the new leaders)* Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the position to which you have been elected?

Leaders: I do.

Rector: *(to each individual)* N.N. Will you faithfully carry out the duties of (Warden/Clerk/Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer/Vestry Member) of Trinity Episcopal Church according to the Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, and in accordance with the By-laws of this Parish?

Response: I will, with God's help.

Rector: Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Christ and to serve this congregation in his name?

Leaders: I do.

Rector: *(to the congregation)* Will you do all in your power to support these leaders with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church?

Congregation: *We will.*

Rector: In the name of this congregation I commission you for this work, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ.

Leaders Amen.

Rector: Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All *Amen.*

Appendix III

Statement of the BOSTA on Racial Strife in the United States

The United States has experienced tremendous strife over the recent tragic killings of a number of young black men and women, including George Floyd in Minneapolis, Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ahmaud Arbery in Satilla Shores, Georgia, Michael Brown in St. Louis, Sandra Bland in Waller County, Texas, Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Eric Garner in New York City, Freddie Gray in Baltimore, Laquan McDonald in Chicago, and many others. We know that this loss of life, often at the hands of the police, stems from systemic racism and white supremacy and are but a small number of the black lives lost throughout our country's founding and history. In short, we the BOSTA condemn all the actions and procedures that resulted in the loss of life.

The deaths of these individuals and many others have renewed dialogue about what the author Jim Wallis has called "America's original sin of racism." The events in Charlottesville, Virginia, similarly brought the realities of racism, bigotry, and white supremacy further to the forthright of our nation's consciousness. Across the country, people from all backgrounds—many of them, especially white people, and even members of The BOSTA for the first time—are confronting the destructive legacy wrought by generations of systemic and personal racial discrimination. Most recently the filmed interaction between Christian Cooper and Amy Cooper in Central Park brought to the forefront *the underlying current of racism* and racial power dynamics in the United States today. The protests of the recent killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer have sparked the U.S. consciousness on the issues of police brutality, racism, and the dignity of black lives, issues that are ever-present but not always discussed or uplifted in all parts of society.

There are no easy answers, but our faith can be an important lens through which to analyze these realities and that helps us to discern the steps towards social action. We the BOSTA follow the great commandment to love thy neighbor. We recognize the greatest commandment is to love the lord your God with all your heart. Secondly, to love each other as God loves you.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry raised the New Testament parable of the Good Samaritan, who stopped to give aid to a man who had been beaten and left on the side of the road.

"Only the Samaritan saw the wounded stranger and acted," Curry said. "Love, as Jesus teaches, is action like this as well as attitude. It seeks the good, the well-being, and the welfare of others as well as one's self."

In a message to his "dear brothers and sisters in the United States," Pope Francis advised, "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."

For in Matthew 15:21-28, it states: “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.” This story in Matthew’s Gospel details Jesus’ encounter with a Canaanite woman. Her nationality makes her an outsider, and on this basis even Jesus rejects her when she comes seeking his help for her daughter. But the Canaanite woman challenges Jesus on his refusal, and Jesus praises her faith and heals her daughter after all. This story demonstrates that God’s love is so expansive, it can surprise and stretch even Jesus Christ himself. It encourages Christians to be mindful of our own prejudices and understand that God’s love isn’t as restrictive as our own.

It is this transformative spirit, in seeking Reconciliation for the past sins of racism, that we must achieve if we are to move forward reconciled to one another in a sense of love and unity, and to do so we must acknowledge the sins of the past. We must engage in active dialogue to discuss it, no matter how uncomfortable such a discussion may be. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu said: “Our common experience in fact is the opposite—that the past, far from disappearing or lying down and being quiet, has an embarrassing and persistent way of returning and haunting us unless it has in fact been dealt with adequately. Unless we look the beast in the eye, we find it has an uncanny habit of returning to hold us hostage.”

The BOSTA’s Committee on Racial Justice & Reconciliation ‘s Vision Statement, in part, reads: “Racism is an issue that has to be faced in a straight forward and courageous manner and what better place for this work to occur than in the Brotherhood Of St Andrew, where we all share a commitment to someone larger than ourselves who can help us find the courage to travel on the road to racial healing and reconciliation.”

We the BOSTA hereby commit to doing the hard work of Reconciliation by Study, by learning to engage in “Courageous Conversations,” which are conversations used to help people learn how to have difficult conversations in healthy ways. One of the most important things we can do to help bring healing is to simply have dialogue where we seek to learn from and understand the other instead of becoming hostile, combative, and more entrenched in our own positions.

We the BOSTA hereby commit to doing the hard work of Reconciliation by Prayer, through the readings and reflections on scriptures for justice, lament and solidarity.

We the BOSTA hereby commit to doing the hard work of Reconciliation by Service, by engaging in actions such as joining groups that have people of different skin color: Civic Groups, Affinity Groups based on a shared hobby or interest or skill.

For by the reaffirmation of our threefold disciplines of Study, Prayer & Service, and by orientating them toward Racial Reconciliation, we can effectively do our part in the creation of The Beloved Community.